

2011

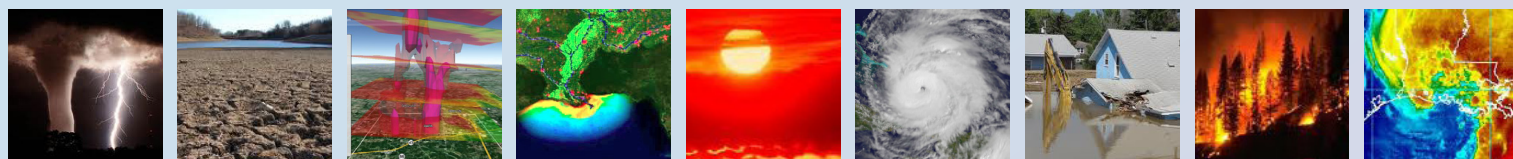
Top Ten National Weather/Climate Events

The following table lists the top ten U.S. weather/climate events of 2011. These events are listed according to their overall rank, as voted on by a panel of weather/climate experts. The voters considered factors such as the scope and unusualness of the event, its immediate human and economic impact, and whether it is emblematic of climate trends or variability.

Rank	Event	When Occurred	National Event Description
1	Tornado Super Outbreak	April 25-28, 2011	On April 25-28, the largest tornado outbreak ever recorded (343) leveled the southeast U.S. There were 199 confirmed tornadoes and 316 tornado-related fatalities on April 27th, both are modern-day records for a 24-hour period.
2	Southern Drought	Throughout 2011	Extreme, persistent heat, combined with minimal precipitation, defined the most "intense" one-year drought on record - by several drought metrics - for large portions of the Southern Rockies, Southern Plains and into neighboring Louisiana. The calendar year 2011 was the driest on record for Texas.
3	Joplin Tornado	May 22, 2011	An EF5 tornado tracked through the heart of Joplin claiming 158 lives. It was the deadliest tornado since 1947 and seventh deadliest in U.S. history. It is also the costliest single tornado in U.S. history.
4	Mississippi and Ohio River Flooding	May	Much of the central U.S. received up to three times of normal spring rainfall, and four Ohio River states (KY, OH, PA, WV) had their wettest spring on record. Record and near-record flood stages occurred throughout the lower Mississippi and Ohio River systems, many exceeding the legendary floods of 1927 and 1937.
5	Hottest Statewide Summers on Record	Summer (Jun-Aug)	Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Louisiana had their warmest summer on record in 2011. Oklahoma and Texas both exceeded the record for the two warmest summer statewide temperature for any state in the Union (OK 1st and TX 2nd).
6	Hurricane Irene	August 20-29, 2011	The first landfalling US hurricane since 2008, Irene made 3 landfalls along the Atlantic coast, disrupting power to over seven million homes and businesses and spawning numerous tornadoes. At least 45 fatalities occurred with over \$7.3 billion in damages.
7	North Plains / Midwest Flooding	June	Meltwater from an above average winter snowpack, combined with warm spring temperatures and above average precipitation made its way into the rivers and streams of the Missouri River system. Record flooding resulted across the Northern Plains and Upper Midwest in June.
8	U.S. Wildfire Season	Throughout 2011	The Spring-Fall wildfire season across the southern U.S. broke numerous records. Texas had its most destructive fire of the modern record - destroying over 1,500 homes - while Arizona and New Mexico had their largest.
9-tie	Tornado Outbreak	April 14-16, 2011	The outbreak covered a swath of land from Oklahoma to North Carolina and at the time was the largest tornado outbreak on record, being surpassed two weeks later. Thirty tornadoes were verified in North Carolina, breaking the state record for the number of tornadoes during one day.
9-tie	Tropical Storm Lee	September 1-11, 2011	Lee made landfall on the parched Gulf Coast, where impacts were major, and mixed (drought relief, but with severe local flooding). The remnants' slow churn across the already-soaked Ohio Valley and Northeast brought continued misery the region, and floods of historic proportions to Binghamton, NY and Hershey, PA.

For more information go to:

www.ncdc.noaa.gov/special-reports/top-ten.php?list=national&year=2011



NOAA's National Climatic Data Center
Asheville, North Carolina

Protecting the past... Revealing the future

2011

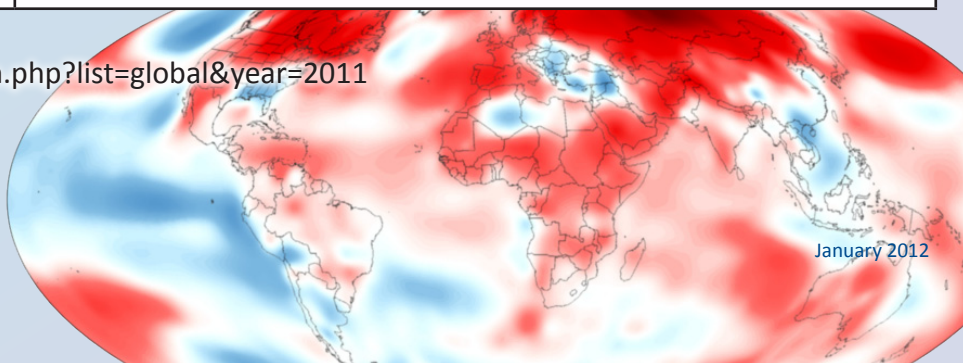
Top Ten Global Weather/Climate Events

The following table lists the top ten global weather/climate events of 2011. These events are listed according to their overall rank, as voted on by a panel of weather/climate experts. The voters considered factors such as the scope and unusualness of the event, its immediate human and economic impact, and whether it is emblematic of climate trends or variability.

Rank	Event	When Occurred	Global Event Description
1	Drought, eastern Africa	Throughout 2011	Drought in Horn of Africa including Somalia, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, and Djibouti was one of the worst in decades. Estimated 10-11 million people affected. Famine was declared in parts of Somalia for first time since 1992.
2	Flooding, Thailand	July-October, 2011	Worst flooding since 1942, affecting 9 million people. Floodwaters made their way from north to south, eventually reaching Bangkok. Total of 4 million acres (one-third of country) submerged.
3	Flooding, eastern Australia	Austral Summer (Dec 2010-Feb 2011)	Frequent and persistent heavy rain events led to severe flooding across eastern Australia. The flooding was among the most significant in Australia's recorded history.
4	Double-Dip La Niña	Throughout 2011	2011 began the year in the midst of a relatively strong and lasting La Niña. It weakened into an ENSO-neutral state (by NOAA's metrics) by mid-year. However, by year's end, La Niña had re-established itself. Many climate outcomes in 2011 were consistent with those expected during La Niña.
5	Flash Floods, Brazil	January 6-12, 2011	Heavy rainfall caused severe flash floods and landslides across southeastern Brazil. This was one of the worst natural disasters in Brazil's history. At least 830 people killed.
6	Tropical Storm Washi	December 16-17, 2011	Tropical Storm Washi struck the southern Philippine island of Mindanao and killed at least 1,250 people. Initial damages were estimated at nearly \$23 million US dollars. Between 1978 and 2010, only 15 tropical cyclones occurred in this (Western Pacific) basin during December and only two made landfall.
7	Arctic Sea Ice Extent	September 2011	The 2011 minimum sea ice extent (9 September, 4.33 million square km) was the second smallest (to 2007) of the satellite era. The five smallest Arctic ice extents have occurred in the past five years (2007-2011). The September Arctic sea ice volume (which incorporates extent and thickness) was the smallest on record.
8	Rain & Floods, Columbia	Austral Autumn (Mar-May)	Unusually heavy rains killed at least 425 people across Colombia and caused billions of dollars in damages. Three million people were affected. Colombia received at least 5 times the average rainfall for the season.
9	Drought, Mexico	Throughout 2011	Drought that began in late 2010 worsened throughout 2011, particularly across northern and central Mexico. By late October, more than half the country was in severe to exceptional drought, considered Mexico's worst drought in 70 years. Initial estimates: 2.5 million people affected, 2.2 million acres of cropland destroyed, and hundreds of thousands of livestock lost.
10	Drought, Europe	Autumn (Sep-Nov)	Much of Central and Eastern Europe experienced major drought conditions in autumn. Germany, Austria and the Czech Republic each had their driest November on record. Many locations on the Danube fell to record low levels. In some areas, shipping was forced to a halt due to shallow waters. Unexploded bombs resurfaced in several rivers after being underwater since World War II

For more information go to:

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